



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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FRAGILE ARTICLES
Group :

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Trenton, New Jersey
January 16, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This statement represents that the prior art listed herein includes, in the opinion of the applicant, the closest prior art of which the applicant is aware. The patents enclosed in this report are listed as follows:

<u>PATENT NO.</u>	<u>PATENTEE</u>	<u>ISSUE DATE</u>
2,086,688	Woodruff	7/13/37
2,337,468	Hilger	12/21/43
2,556,529	Farrell	6/12/51
2,626,050	Freiberg	1/20/53
2,665,804	Koester	1/12/54
2,695,705	Powers et al	11/30/54
2,734,626	Koester et al	2/14/56
2,738,058	Hansen et al	3/13/56
2,741,362	Cortright	4/10/56
2,873,024	Koester	2/10/59
3,064,845	Maxwell	11/20/62
3,216,564	Wolfe, Jr. et al	11/9/65
3,389,786	Lidgard	6/25/68
3,414,124	Lidgard	12/3/68
3,709,358	Andrews et al	1/9/73
3,938,660	Moehring	2/17/76

3,939,978	Thomaswick	2/24/76
4,014,435	Rowley et al	3/29/77
4,092,815	Rowley et al	6/6/78
4,225,043	Lastik	9/30/80
4,287,990	Kurick	9/8/81
4,892,193	Thomas	1/9/90
5,085,030	Segawa et al	2/4/92
5,174,448	Flaig	12/29/92
5,632,590	Pearson et al	5/27/97
5,678,691	Amado-Aguilar et al	10/21/97
6,035,790	Polando	3/14/00
6,076,690	Hemmerly	6/20/00
6,102,206	Pride	8/15/00
6,158,589	Smith et al	12/12/00
6,305,566	Pigott et al	10/23/01
6,416,271	Pigott et al	7/9/02
6,478,153	King	11/12/02
6,478,354	Eyal	11/12/02
6,527,120	Okamoto	3/4/03
6,536,607	Knoll et al	3/25/03
6,539,881	Underbrink et al	4/1/03
6,588,605	Volkert et al	7/8/03
6,591,988	Trpkovski	7/15/03

United States Patent No. 2,086,688 discloses a "Shipping Container" patented July 13, 1937 to G. C. Woodruff and assigned to The L.C.I. Corporation. The shipping container of the '688 patent includes a doorway and a compartment accessible through the doorway and includes a floor with abutments at opposite sides of the floor with longitudinally extending guide slots. It includes a clamping means for cooperation with the abutment at one side of the compartment for holding goods therein pressed against the other abutment to secure the goods against movement in one direction. An abutment at the side of the compartment at right angles to the above described are included and means are movably positioned in the guide slots of the original abutment device for engaging and clamping the goods in a

direction at right angles thereto. The present invention is distinguishable, however, because it discloses an improved means for safely supporting fragile articles which are mounted upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. It includes a longitudinally extending support member with upper and lower supporting surfaces. It includes a mounting member affixed to the support surface and extending longitudinally therealong and securable to the substrate while abutting it. It includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow and an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and positioned spaced apart from and above the lower securement surface. This lower securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and enhance mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounted upon the substrate therebeneath. This construction is clearly patentably distinguishable from the above defined patent disclosure and, as such, should be deemed novel thereover.

United States Patent No. 2,337,468 discloses a "Shipping Container For Breakable Sheets" patented December 21, 1943 to W. P. Hilger and assigned to B. H. Flanagan and M. H.

O'Link. The '468 patent discloses a shipping container having a box with a pair of end walls and side walls. Supporting devices are located at opposite end walls within the box with each having a part engageable with its end and having other parts connected with the wall-engaging parts for engaging and supporting the ends of breakable sheets such as glass. The engaging portions are positioned in order to hold the edges of the glass spaced from the end walls and spaced from the part of the supporting means engaging the walls. Other supporting members include portions engageable with the side wall of the box. The above described patent is pertinent to the present invention, however there is no showing of the unique configuration of a device for safely supporting fragile articles which is capable of being mounted upon the substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. This means preferably includes a support member extending longitudinally and is made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon the substrate therebelow for mounting. This support member includes an upper supporting surface and a lower supporting surface. The lower supporting surface is spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting. A mounting member is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therewith. This mounting member can be secured with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath. The mounting member includes a lower securement surface and an upper securement surface wherein the

lower securement surface is in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower support surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. On the other hand the upper support surface is located below the upper supporting surface of the support member in a position spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface for the purpose of facilitating maintaining of a safe spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned mounted on and in abutment with the upper supporting surface. This unique construction is not shown or suggested in the above-identified patent and for this reason the present invention as claimed is deemed to be patentably distinguishable thereover.

United States Patent No. 2,556,529 discloses a "Shipping Carton For Glass" patented June 12, 1951 to J. A. Farrell and assigned to Cadillac Products, Inc. The '529 patent discloses the use of a plurality of similarly sized frangible panes of glass and a shipping carton made of a fiber-board material enclosing the panes and having an interior dimension in

the plane of the panes slightly larger. A yielding pad is included at each corner of the compartment with multiple corrugated fiber-boards sheets of the same size oriented flat upon one another and secured to one another in a relatively thick laminated unitary structure. The corrugations of these sheets extend parallel to one another and each pad is cut out to provide a plurality of spaced apart parallel grooves on one side thereof corresponding in number to the number of panes of glass within the carton and extending perpendicularly to the corrugations of the sheets from one end to the opposite end thereof. They extend to a depth approximately one half the thickness of the pad. Each pad is bent intermediate its ends on a line parallel to the corrugations to form two end sections extending substantially at right angles to one another. The present invention as claimed is clearly deemed to be novel in comparison with the disclosure of the above-identified patent. In particular the present invention discloses a means for safely supporting fragile articles which are mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. The means includes a support member extending longitudinally and made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon a substrate therebelow for mounting thereon. The support member includes an upper supporting surface defining a support plane extending thereacross for supporting fragile articles. The upper supporting surface is adapted to support fragile articles thereupon in spaced relation to the substrate therebelow for

facilitating protection of them. The support member also includes a lower supporting surface positioned spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and which is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting thereupon. A mounting member is also included in the support means which is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therealong. This mounting member is preferably securable with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath for facilitating attaching of the support member thereto. The mounting member preferably includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to a substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower supporting surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. The mounting member further includes an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and positioned spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and for mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounting upon the substrate positioned therebeneath. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the

upper supporting surface to facilitate maintaining of spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned upon the upper supporting surface. This construction is not taught or in any way shown, suggested or rendered obvious by the disclosure of the above-identified United States patent and, as such, the present invention as now claimed is deemed patentably allowable in view thereof.

United States Patent No. 2,626,050 discloses a "Folding Shipping Frame For Glass" patented January 20, 1953 to J. M. Freiberg and assigned to Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company. The shipping frame disclosed in the '050 patent is used for shipping glass members and includes an extensible cushioning edge packing for plate glass and the like with two accordion pleated strips of flat sheet material assembled in interlock folded relation. One of the pleated strips is wider than the other and has a series of aligned longitudinal slots in alternate folded edges to form a groove extending longitudinally of the folded strip. The narrower pleated strip is located within the groove and has tabs projecting from the edges of the alternate folds through successive slots in the wider strip to interlock the two strips while permitting extension thereof to the limit of the length defined by the narrower strip. The present invention is distinguishable, however, because it discloses an improved means for safely supporting fragile articles which are mounted upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough.

It includes a longitudinally extending support member with upper and lower supporting surfaces. It includes a mounting member affixed to the support surface and extending longitudinally therealong and securable to the substrate while abutting it. It includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow and an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and positioned spaced apart from and above the lower securement surface. This lower securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and enhance mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounted upon the substrate therebeneath. This construction is clearly patentably distinguishable from the above defined patent disclosure and, as such, should be deemed novel thereover.

United States Patent No. 2,665,804 discloses a "Shipping Container For Glass Sheets" patented January 12, 1954 to M. C. Koester and assigned to Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company. The container in the '804 patent is designed specifically for holding glass sheets which are normally curved such as windshields and the like. It includes a substantially rectangular carton with top and bottom and side and end walls. A

curved glass sheet is positioned within the carton and a resilient filler member has portions which are resilient and engage opposite ends of the sheet through substantially the entire length thereof. Their purpose is to maintain the ends in spaced floatable relation with respect to the side and end walls of the carton. The resilient spacer members are arranged between the top, bottom and side walls of the carton in engagement with respect to the side edges of the glass sheet. In this manner each of the members will contact both the side walls of the carton and spacing of the sheet edges from the side walls in floatable relation with respect thereto. The above described patent is pertinent to the present invention, however there is no showing of the unique configuration of a device for safely supporting fragile articles which is capable of being mounted upon the substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. This means preferably includes a support member extending longitudinally and is made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon the substrate therebelow for mounting. This support member includes an upper supporting surface and a lower supporting surface. The lower supporting surface is spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting. A mounting member is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therewith. This mounting member can be secured with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath. The mounting member includes a lower

securement surface and an upper securement surface wherein the lower securement surface is in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower support surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. On the other hand the upper support surface is located below the upper supporting surface of the support member in a position spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface for the purpose of facilitating maintaining of a safe spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned mounted on and in abutment with the upper supporting surface. This unique construction is not shown or suggested in the above-identified patent and for this reason the present invention as claimed is deemed to be patentably distinguishable thereover.

United States Patent No. 2,695,705 discloses a "Pallet Case" patented November 30, 1954 to H. O. Powers et al and assigned to Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company. The shipping container disclosed in the '705 patent is designed to provide a pallet case having a bottom with a deck and members elevating the

deck from a supporting surface to prevent entry of a lift fork beneath the deck. A plurality of sheets are supported on edge upon the deck. An end section is fixedly secured to one end of the bottom and has a portion arranged in overlapping relation thereto. Another end section has a portion thereof loosely supported upon the deck. A side section is attached in overlapping relation to the end sections. Another side section is included of a lesser size than the other side section to freely be supported upon the deck between the first mentioned end section and the loosely supported portion of the second mentioned end section. In this manner it will be capable of movement toward and away from the attached side section. The top is disposed between the side sections and a retaining means is included tying the bottom, side and ends sections along with the top together. The present invention as claimed is clearly deemed to be novel in comparison with the disclosure of the above-identified patent. In particular the present invention discloses a means for safely supporting fragile articles which are mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. The means includes a support member extending longitudinally and made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon a substrate therebelow for mounting thereon. The support member includes an upper supporting surface defining a support plane extending thereacross for supporting fragile articles. The upper supporting surface is adapted to support fragile articles

thereupon in spaced relation to the substrate therebelow for facilitating protection of them. The support member also includes a lower supporting surface positioned spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and which is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting thereupon. A mounting member is also included in the support means which is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therealong. This mounting member is preferably securable with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath for facilitating attaching of the support member thereto. The mounting member preferably includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to a substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower supporting surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. The mounting member further includes an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and positioned spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and for mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounting upon the substrate positioned therebeneath. The upper securement surface defines a

safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface to facilitate maintaining of spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned upon the upper supporting surface. This construction is not taught or in any way shown, suggested or rendered obvious by the disclosure of the above-identified United States patent and, as such, the present invention as now claimed is deemed patentably allowable in view thereof.

United States Patent No. 2,734,626 discloses a "Shipping Container For Glass Sheets" patented February 14, 1956 to M. C. Koester et al and assigned to Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company. The shipping container disclosed in the '626 patent is designed specifically for shipping of sheets of glass. It includes a substantially rectangular box with at least one curved glass sheet arranged within the box. Cushioning envelopes receive the opposite end portions of the sheet and extend over most of the entire length thereof for protecting the sheet against scratching in shipping. A resilient filler member overlaps the envelopes and has substantially triangularly shaped portions at opposite sides of the sheet outwardly of the center line and extending substantially entirely within the top and bottom walls of the box and spacing the sheet from the walls of the box. The present invention is distinguishable, however, because it discloses an improved means for safely supporting fragile articles which are mounted upon a substrate therebelow by

securement devices driven therethrough. It includes a longitudinally extending support member with upper and lower supporting surfaces. It includes a mounting member affixed to the support surface and extending longitudinally therealong and securable to the substrate while abutting it. It includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow and an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and positioned spaced apart from and above the lower securement surface. This lower securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and enhance mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounted upon the substrate therebeneath. This construction is clearly patentably distinguishable from the above defined patent disclosure and, as such, should be deemed novel thereover.

United States Patent No. 2,738,058 discloses a "Pallet Case" patented March 13, 1956 to R. C. Hansen et al and assigned to Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company. The '058 patent discloses a shipping container for glass sheets with a bottom having a deck and members elevating the deck from a supporting surface to prevent entry of lift forks beneath the deck. A plurality of

glass sheets can be supported on edge upon the deck and longitudinally extending guide blocks are attached to the upper surface of the deck and extend entirely along opposite sides thereof for receiving the stack of glass sheets therebetween. An end section which comprises vertical members fixedly secured to the bottom. Additional vertical members are supported upon the deck and spaced from the vertical members by horizontal spacer members. Additional horizontal members are secured to the vertical members. The horizontal and vertical members abut against the guide blocks. Side sections freely support upon the guide blocks in abutting relation to the end section. An end section of a lesser size than that of the other end sections will be freely supported upon the deck inwardly of the end thereof between the guide blocks such as to be capable of movement toward and away from the fixed end section. The top is disposed upon the end sections. Multiple flexible retaining members tie the bottom end and side sections together as a single unit. The present invention as claimed is clearly deemed to be novel in comparison with the disclosure of the above-identified patent. In particular the present invention discloses a means for safely supporting fragile articles which are mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. The means includes a support member extending longitudinally and made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon a substrate therebelow for mounting thereon. The support member includes an upper supporting surface defining a support

plane extending thereacross for supporting fragile articles. The upper supporting surface is adapted to support fragile articles thereupon in spaced relation to the substrate therebelow for facilitating protection of them. The support member also includes a lower supporting surface positioned spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and which is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting thereupon. A mounting member is also included in the support means which is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therealong. This mounting member is preferably securable with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath for facilitating attaching of the support member thereto. The mounting member preferably includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to a substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower supporting surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. The mounting member further includes an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and positioned spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and for mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface

thereof in abutment with and mounting upon the substrate positioned therebeneath. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface to facilitate maintaining of spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned upon the upper supporting surface. This construction is not taught or in any way shown, suggested or rendered obvious by the disclosure of the above-identified United States patent and, as such, the present invention as now claimed is deemed patentably allowable in view thereof.

United States Patent No. 2,741,362 discloses a "Shipping Container For Glass" patented April 10, 1956 to S. E. Cortright and assigned to General Motors Corporation. The shipping container particularly usable for glass shown in the '362 patent includes a packing strip positioned within a container which encircles the marginal edge of an article therewithin to abut the opposite sides and ends and the top and bottom of the container. The packing strip includes a single length of material embodying three separately formed and joined together layers. One of these layers is a flat non-stretchable backing which is flexible in a direction transverse relative to its plane. Another is of a substantially corrugated outline having a series of longitudinally spaced flat portions for the purpose of attachment to the backing and inwardly projecting ribs between the flat portions for locating abutment with the edges of

the article in spaced relation to the container side and end walls. The third is of a substantially corrugated outline with a series of longitudinally spaced flat portions mated with and for attachment to the corresponding flat portions of the intermediate layer. The above described patent is pertinent to the present invention, however there is no showing of the unique configuration of a device for safely supporting fragile articles which is capable of being mounted upon the substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. This means preferably includes a support member extending longitudinally and is made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon the substrate therebelow for mounting. This support member includes an upper supporting surface and a lower supporting surface. The lower supporting surface is spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting. A mounting member is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therewith. This mounting member can be secured with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath. The mounting member includes a lower securement surface and an upper securement surface wherein the lower securement surface is in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower support surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. On the other hand the upper support surface is located below the upper supporting surface of the support member in a position spaced from and above

the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface for the purpose of facilitating maintaining of a safe spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned mounted on and in abutment with the upper supporting surface. This unique construction is not shown or suggested in the above-identified patent and for this reason the present invention as claimed is deemed to be patentably distinguishable thereover.

United States Patent No. 2,873,024 discloses a "Shipping Container For Glass Sheets" patented February 10, 1959 to M. C. Koester and assigned to Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company. Glass sheets are designed to be transported in the shipping container disclosed in the '024 patent. This package includes a frangible member having one or more areas of curvature which include a container and a substantially U-shaped interliner unit inserted into the container. The frangible member is contained within the hollow interior defined by the U-shaped interliner. The interliner unit includes a base wall with at least two wing walls integrally joined to the base wall. Means are included for

securing the intermediate portion of the frangible member to the intermediate member of the base wall. A first brace extends between the wing walls and is adapted to positively engage the interliner in its U-shape. A second brace is extends between the wing walls to fixedly support the extremities of the frangible member such that it is out of contact with the base in such a manner that movement of the extremities of the frangible member is prevented. The present invention is distinguishable, however, because it discloses an improved means for safely supporting fragile articles which are mounted upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. It includes a longitudinally extending support member with upper and lower supporting surfaces. It includes a mounting member affixed to the support surface and extending longitudinally therealong and securable to the substrate while abutting it. It includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow and an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and positioned spaced apart from and above the lower securement surface. This lower securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and enhance mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof

in abutment with and mounted upon the substrate therebeneath. This construction is clearly patentably distinguishable from the above defined patent disclosure and, as such, should be deemed novel thereover.

United States Patent No. 3,064,845 discloses a "Shipping Container" patented November 20, 1962 to W. J. Maxwell and assigned to Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company. The container shown in the '845 patent is designed for shipping of curved glass materials and includes a palletized base with a platform secured to the base to provide a bottom for the container, end panels and a rear panel supported by the bottom. It includes a top, bottom and intermediate horizontal cleats secured on the inside faces of each panel. A lower front panel is supported by the bottom and has a top and bottom horizontal cleat secured to the inside face. The top horizontal cleats of the lower front panel are in horizontal alignment at its top surface with the top surface of the intermediate cleats of the end panels and the rear panel. An upper front panel is positioned on the lower front panel and has a top horizontal cleat in alignment with the top cleats of the end panels and the rear panel. A shelf rests upon and is supported by the intermediate cleats and by the top cleat of the lower front panel. A top is supported by the top cleat on the upper front panel and by top cleats on the end panels. The present invention as claimed is clearly deemed to be novel in comparison with the disclosure of the above-identified patent. In particular the present invention discloses a means for safely

supporting fragile articles which are mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. The means includes a support member extending longitudinally and made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon a substrate therebelow for mounting thereon. The support member includes an upper supporting surface defining a support plane extending thereacross for supporting fragile articles. The upper supporting surface is adapted to support fragile articles thereupon in spaced relation to the substrate therebelow for facilitating protection of them. The support member also includes a lower supporting surface positioned spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and which is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting thereupon. A mounting member is also included in the support means which is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therealong. This mounting member is preferably securable with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath for facilitating attaching of the support member thereto. The mounting member preferably includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to a substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower supporting surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. The mounting member further includes an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and positioned spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper

securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and for mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounting upon the substrate positioned therebeneath. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface to facilitate maintaining of spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned upon the upper supporting surface. This construction is not taught or in any way shown, suggested or rendered obvious by the disclosure of the above-identified United States patent and, as such, the present invention as now claimed is deemed patentably allowable in view thereof.

United States Patent No. 3,216,564 discloses a "Shipping Container" patented November 9, 1965 to H. O. Wolfe, Jr. et al and assigned to Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company. The container of the '564 patent is designed for shipping and includes a box with a bottom and four upstanding sides. A plurality of curved sheets are defined of frangible material within the box wherein each are supported on a lower edge in such a manner as to be disposed in a generally outstanding position and each sheet is positioned in proximity to the next. Spacing

members are included adjacent to the bottom of the box and between adjacent sheets for the purpose of separating the lower edges of each sheet from the next adjacent sheet for mutual protection. Means are included for separating the upper edge of the sheets and includes a strut located above the sheets and extending between two opposite walls of the box transversely relative to the upper edges of the sheets. Sheet engaging webs are supported by the strut and engage less than all of the plurality of sheets to position and separate the upper edges of some of the sheets. The sheet engaging webs are formed into a block secured to the strut with the block extending a distance along the strut substantially less than the length thereof. Spacing members are included adjacent the upper edges of the remainder of the sheets not engaged by the webs to separate the upper edges of the remainder of the plurality of sheets and are located in general alignment transverse with respect to the upper edges of the sheets within the sheet engaging webs. The above described patent is pertinent to the present invention, however there is no showing of the unique configuration of a device for safely supporting fragile articles which is capable of being mounted upon the substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. This means preferably includes a support member extending longitudinally and is made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon the substrate therebelow for mounting. This support member includes an upper supporting surface and a lower supporting surface. The

lower supporting surface is spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting. A mounting member is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therewith. This mounting member can be secured with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath. The mounting member includes a lower securement surface and an upper securement surface wherein the lower securement surface is in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower support surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. On the other hand the upper support surface is located below the upper supporting surface of the support member in a position spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface for the purpose of facilitating maintaining of a safe spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned mounted on and in abutment with the upper supporting surface. This unique construction is not shown or suggested in the above-identified patent and for this reason the present

invention as claimed is deemed to be patentably distinguishable thereover.

United States Patent No. 3,389,786 discloses "Packaging For Frangible Sheets" patented June 25, 1968 to E. J. Lidgard and assigned to Flotepak Corporation. The package for holding frangible sheets disclosed in the '786 patent includes a supporting panel in a shipping container and a plurality of locating units adapted for edge contact with a sheet to be shipped. It includes elongated plate of relatively rigid material adapted to be folded at spaced transverse lines. One or more pairs of L-shaped cuts are positioned with the L's reversed with respect to one another in spaced relation. The plate is folded on the lines at the L-shaped cuts to form a ridge with a triangular cross-section. The edges of one end of the ridge are spaced by reason of the cuts from the plate to provide a retaining slot. The units are disposed around a sheet of glass or the like on the supporting panel to receive and lock the edges of the sheet to be anchored to the panel for shipment. The present invention is distinguishable, however, because it discloses an improved means for safely supporting fragile articles which are mounted upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. It includes a longitudinally extending support member with upper and lower supporting surfaces. It includes a mounting member affixed to the support surface and extending longitudinally therealong and securable to the substrate while abutting it. It includes a

lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow and an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and positioned spaced apart from and above the lower securement surface. This lower securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and enhance mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounted upon the substrate therebeneath. This construction is clearly patentably distinguishable from the above defined patent disclosure and, as such, should be deemed novel thereover.

United States Patent No. 3,414,124 discloses a "Container For Sheetlike Material" patented December 3, 1968 to E. J. Lidgard and assigned to Flotepak Corporation. The container for holding sheetlike material disclosed in the '124 patent includes an endwise panel stabilizer for use in mounting of plural plate glass packs. The stabilizer and spacer sheet have an opening centrally therein which is bisected by a fold in the element. A lock tab is hinged by a fold at one edge of the opening which has shoulder barbs adjacent the hinge part to engage edges of the opening to lock the sheet in partially folded condition for assembly. The above described patent is pertinent

to the present invention, however there is no showing of the unique configuration of a device for safely supporting fragile articles which is capable of being mounted upon the substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. This means preferably includes a support member extending longitudinally and is made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon the substrate therebelow for mounting. This support member includes an upper supporting surface and a lower supporting surface. The lower supporting surface is spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting. A mounting member is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therewith. This mounting member can be secured with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath. The mounting member includes a lower securement surface and an upper securement surface wherein the lower securement surface is in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower support surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. On the other hand the upper support surface is located below the upper supporting surface of the support member in a position spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting

member to the substrate therebelow. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface for the purpose of facilitating maintaining of a safe spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned mounted on and in abutment with the upper supporting surface. This unique construction is not shown or suggested in the above-identified patent and for this reason the present invention as claimed is deemed to be patentably distinguishable thereover.

United States Patent No. 3,709,358 discloses "Packages Of Glass In Sheet Form" patented January 9, 1973 to B. Andrews et al and assigned to Pilkington Brothers Limited. The packaging for glass sheets shown in the '358 patent is for use with a stack of glass sheets arranged in vertical face-to-face relation and defining top and bottom stack faces. One or more rigid L-shaped brackets are disposed partially around the stack. Each one includes a first arm underlying and supporting the full extent of the bottom face of the stack and a second arm extending upwardly in parallel relation to the outer face of one end sheet thereof. A strapping mechanism is operatively associated with the bracket to secure the stack to the bracket in fixed relation thereto. The strapping mechanism includes a band extending around the bracket and the periphery of the stack which is unencompassed by the bracket wherein the band encompasses the stack. The bracket arms are formed of a channel section to define grooves for

receiving of the band. The present invention as claimed is clearly deemed to be novel in comparison with the disclosure of the above-identified patent. In particular the present invention discloses a means for safely supporting fragile articles which are mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. The means includes a support member extending longitudinally and made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon a substrate therebelow for mounting thereon. The support member includes an upper supporting surface defining a support plane extending thereacross for supporting fragile articles. The upper supporting surface is adapted to support fragile articles thereupon in spaced relation to the substrate therebelow for facilitating protection of them. The support member also includes a lower supporting surface positioned spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and which is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting thereupon. A mounting member is also included in the support means which is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therealong. This mounting member is preferably securable with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath for facilitating attaching of the support member thereto. The mounting member preferably includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to a substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower supporting surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. The

mounting member further includes an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and positioned spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and for mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounting upon the substrate positioned therebeneath. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface to facilitate maintaining of spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned upon the upper supporting surface. This construction is not taught or in any way shown, suggested or rendered obvious by the disclosure of the above-identified United States patent and, as such, the present invention as now claimed is deemed patentably allowable in view thereof.

United States Patent No. 3,938,660 discloses "Glass Sheet Shipping Packages" patented February 17, 1976 to R. J. Moehring and assigned to Libbey-Owens-Ford Company. The shipping package disclosed in the '660 patent is designed specifically for shipping a plurality of upstanding sheets of glass. They include

an open L-shaped frame upon which the sheets are supported on edge and an adjustable tie down apparatus. It includes a pair of spaced apart L-shaped pads each with a first elongated leg lying transversely along the top edges of the sheet and a second leg lying along the front face of the outer one of the sheets. A pair of banding straps are included wherein each of the straps is connected to one of the pads for holding the pad on the top edges of the sheets. A first pressure member is included with ends connected to and extending between the straps wherein the end of the pressure member bear against the second leg of each pad. Means are included which secure the straps to the rack resiliently for applying pressure to the ends of the pressure member such that pressure applied by each strap will hold the pressure member uniformly transmitted to the plurality of sheets for retaining of the sheets relative to the rack. The present invention is distinguishable, however, because it discloses an improved means for safely supporting fragile articles which are mounted upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. It includes a longitudinally extending support member with upper and lower supporting surfaces. It includes a mounting member affixed to the support surface and extending longitudinally therealong and securable to the substrate while abutting it. It includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow and an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and

positioned spaced apart from and above the lower securement surface. This lower securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and enhance mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounted upon the substrate therebeneath. This construction is clearly patentably distinguishable from the above defined patent disclosure and, as such, should be deemed novel thereover.

United States Patent No. 3,939,978 discloses a "Flat Glass Shipping Container" patented February 24, 1976 to R. J. Thomaswick and assigned to PPG Industries, Inc. The container shown in the '978 patent is designed for shipping flat glass sheets with generally rectangular shapes. It includes a corrugated fiberboard cut and scored within the generally rectangular shape to a generally T-shaped configuration to include a bottom portion, sides and a top lid flap. A bottom lid flap portion is also included. The bottom portion includes dimensions greater than the corresponding dimensions of the stack of glass sheets and the width of the sheets is approximately equal to the height of the stack. Corner pads are made of resilient compressible shock absorbing material positioned in the corner of the base and have a height in the uncompressed state greater than the width of the sides. They are of a thickness

approximately equal to the difference between the corresponding dimensions of a stack and that of the base. The corner pads are compressed between the corresponding side flaps and the bottom portion when the container is formed from fiberboard originally to unitize the stack of glass sheets. The above described patent is pertinent to the present invention, however there is no showing of the unique configuration of a device for safely supporting fragile articles which is capable of being mounted upon the substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. This means preferably includes a support member extending longitudinally and is made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon the substrate therebelow for mounting. This support member includes an upper supporting surface and a lower supporting surface. The lower supporting surface is spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting. A mounting member is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therewith. This mounting member can be secured with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath. The mounting member includes a lower securement surface and an upper securement surface wherein the lower securement surface is in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower support surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. On the other hand the upper support surface is located below the upper supporting surface of the support member

in a position spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface for the purpose of facilitating maintaining of a safe spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned mounted on and in abutment with the upper supporting surface. This unique construction is not shown or suggested in the above-identified patent and for this reason the present invention as claimed is deemed to be patentably distinguishable thereover.

United States Patent No. 4,014,435 patented March 29, 1977 to J. R. Rowley et al and assigned to PPG Industries, Inc. The shipping rack for a plurality of flat sheets is disclosed in the '435 patent and is designed to be collapsible. It includes at least two L-shaped supports made of a rigid material. Each of these L-shaped supports include a vertical arm and a horizontal arm. Means are included for supporting the horizontal arms in spaced relation to the supporting surface. Means are included for detachably securing at least two of the L-shaped supports for maintaining them in spaced relation to one another. The maintaining mechanism includes a base having means on the

underside engaging the horizontal arms for the purpose of limiting movement thereof. The present invention as claimed is clearly deemed to be novel in comparison with the disclosure of the above-identified patent. In particular the present invention discloses a means for safely supporting fragile articles which are mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. The means includes a support member extending longitudinally and made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon a substrate therebelow for mounting thereon. The support member includes an upper supporting surface defining a support plane extending thereacross for supporting fragile articles. The upper supporting surface is adapted to support fragile articles thereupon in spaced relation to the substrate therebelow for facilitating protection of them. The support member also includes a lower supporting surface positioned spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and which is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting thereupon. A mounting member is also included in the support means which is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therealong. This mounting member is preferably securable with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath for facilitating attaching of the support member thereto. The mounting member preferably includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to a substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower supporting surface of the

support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. The mounting member further includes an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and positioned spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and for mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounting upon the substrate positioned therebeneath. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface to facilitate maintaining of spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned upon the upper supporting surface. This construction is not taught or in any way shown, suggested or rendered obvious by the disclosure of the above-identified United States patent and, as such, the present invention as now claimed is deemed patentably allowable in view thereof.

United States Patent No. 4,092,815 discloses a "Method Of Loading Glass Sheets On A Collapsible Rack For Storing Or Shipping" patented June 6, 1978 to J. R. Rowley et al and assigned to PPG Industries, Inc. The '815 patent discloses a

method for loading sheets on a collapsible rack. It includes a pair of rigid L-shaped supports each with a vertical leg joined to a horizontal leg and a rigid guideway therein for positioning flexible banding into the guideway of each support. Inserting pins are included in the L-shaped portions to maintain the banding of the guideways. A base is included with a pair of spaced ribs on the major surface. These ribs are sized for slidable insertion into the guideways of the L-shaped supports. The base is mounted on the horizontal leg of the L-shaped support with the ribs of the base in the guideways of the L-shaped supports on top of the banding therein to prevent sideway motion of the L-shaped supports. An assembly rack is provided. Multiple sheets are located in the rack vertically and the sheets are secured to the rack. The above described patent is pertinent to the present invention, however there is no showing of the unique configuration of a device for safely supporting fragile articles which is capable of being mounted upon the substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. This means preferably includes a support member extending longitudinally and is made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon the substrate therebelow for mounting. This support member includes an upper supporting surface and a lower supporting surface. The lower supporting surface is spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting. A mounting member is affixed to the support member and

extends longitudinally therewith. This mounting member can be secured with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath. The mounting member includes a lower securement surface and an upper securement surface wherein the lower securement surface is in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower support surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. On the other hand the upper support surface is located below the upper supporting surface of the support member in a position spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface for the purpose of facilitating maintaining of a safe spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned mounted on and in abutment with the upper supporting surface. This unique construction is not shown or suggested in the above-identified patent and for this reason the present invention as claimed is deemed to be patentably distinguishable thereover.

United States Patent No. 4,225,043 discloses "Securing Pads For Sheet Shipping Containers" patented September 30, 1980

to J. P. Lastik and assigned to PPG Industries, Inc. The pads of the '043 patent are designed for sheet shipping containers and include a pair of elongated members in spaced relation to one another in a container. Each of the members has at least one slot for receiving the edge portion of the sheet wherein the sheet is acted upon by transportation forces which tend to displace the sheet along a path generally transverse to the longitudinal axis of the members. Means are mounted in at least one slot of at least one elongated member and compressed between the walls of the at least one slot and adjacent sheet portion for applying a biasing force on the sheet portion to prevent displacing of the sheet responsive to actuation of transportation forces. The present invention is distinguishable, however, because it discloses an improved means for safely supporting fragile articles which are mounted upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. It includes a longitudinally extending support member with upper and lower supporting surfaces. It includes a mounting member affixed to the support surface and extending longitudinally therealong and securable to the substrate while abutting it. It includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow and an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and positioned spaced apart from and above the lower securement surface. This lower securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the

support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and enhance mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounted upon the substrate therebeneath. This construction is clearly patentably distinguishable from the above defined patent disclosure and, as such, should be deemed novel thereover.

United States Patent No. 4,287,990 discloses "Glass Sheet Shipping Packages" patented September 8, 1981 to J. F. Kurick and assigned to Libbey-Owens-Ford Company. The shipping package for glass in the '990 patent is a composite design for holding upstanding sheets of glass with curved end portions such as for windshields and the like. Included is an elongated integrally formed substantially rectangular male member with spaced apart support members extending into and projecting from the male member for supporting the glass sheets edgewise. The male member is provided with a pair of spaced apart recesses for receiving the curved end portions of the glass sheets. Also included is a rectangular female closure member matching and interfitting with the male member. Means are included for securing the stack of glass sheets within the male and female closure members. Also surrounding means are included for surrounding the female closure member and the male closure member for securing them together with respect to one another. The

above described patent is pertinent to the present invention, however there is no showing of the unique configuration of a device for safely supporting fragile articles which is capable of being mounted upon the substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. This means preferably includes a support member extending longitudinally and is made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon the substrate therebelow for mounting. This support member includes an upper supporting surface and a lower supporting surface. The lower supporting surface is spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting. A mounting member is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therewith. This mounting member can be secured with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath. The mounting member includes a lower securement surface and an upper securement surface wherein the lower securement surface is in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower support surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. On the other hand the upper support surface is located below the upper supporting surface of the support member in a position spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate

therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface for the purpose of facilitating maintaining of a safe spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned mounted on and in abutment with the upper supporting surface. This unique construction is not shown or suggested in the above-identified patent and for this reason the present invention as claimed is deemed to be patentably distinguishable thereover.

United States Patent No. 4,892,193 discloses an "Expanded Plastic Packaging System For Substantially Planar Objects" patented January 9, 1990 to G. Thomas. The system shown in the '193 patent for holding planar objects includes a substantially rigid bottom formed of expanded plastic and a planar and rigid lid also of this material. The bottom and lid each have exterior edges and corners. The bottom includes an internally defined open-faced cavity with sides and a polygonal inside surface. The open-faced cavity is adapted to receive through the open face and contain a substantially planar object. The lid is of a size such that it may be placed over the open face of the cavity in the bottom to cover it. At least one strip of adhesive plastic tape may be placed along the outside junction of the bottom and the lid in order to detachably secure the lid to the bottom for sealing of the cavity. The present invention

as claimed is clearly deemed to be novel in comparison with the disclosure of the above-identified patent. In particular the present invention discloses a means for safely supporting fragile articles which are mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. The means includes a support member extending longitudinally and made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon a substrate therebelow for mounting thereon. The support member includes an upper supporting surface defining a support plane extending thereacross for supporting fragile articles. The upper supporting surface is adapted to support fragile articles thereupon in spaced relation to the substrate therebelow for facilitating protection of them. The support member also includes a lower supporting surface positioned spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and which is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting thereupon. A mounting member is also included in the support means which is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therealong. This mounting member is preferably securable with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath for facilitating attaching of the support member thereto. The mounting member preferably includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to a substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower supporting surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. The mounting member further includes an upper securement surface

located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and positioned spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and for mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounting upon the substrate positioned therebeneath. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface to facilitate maintaining of spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned upon the upper supporting surface. This construction is not taught or in any way shown, suggested or rendered obvious by the disclosure of the above-identified United States patent and, as such, the present invention as now claimed is deemed patentably allowable in view thereof.

United States Patent No. 5,085,030 discloses a "Method Of Transferring And Storing Glass Sheets And Tray Used In Method" patented February 4, 1992 to T. Segawa et al and assigned to Nippon Sheet Glass, Co., Ltd. The method for transferring stored glass sheets disclosed in the '030 patent includes horizontally stacking a plurality of glass sheets on a tray at a first

location such that the lowermost surface of the lowermost glass sheet is held in contact with the slippage inhibiting damper for resisting displacement therebetween. Thereafter packaging film is wrapped in a helical shape around the sides of the horizontally stacked glass sheets without wrapping the tray in such a manner as to resist surface displacement of the stacked glass sheets relative to each other when transferred for the purpose of forming a unitary package. The unitary package is then transferred together with the tray to the second locations and the glass sheets are horizontally stacked on the tray during this transfer. The present invention is distinguishable, however, because it discloses an improved means for safely supporting fragile articles which are mounted upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. It includes a longitudinally extending support member with upper and lower supporting surfaces. It includes a mounting member affixed to the support surface and extending longitudinally therealong and securable to the substrate while abutting it. It includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow and an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and positioned spaced apart from and above the lower securement surface. This lower securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement

with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and enhance mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounted upon the substrate therebeneath. This construction is clearly patentably distinguishable from the above defined patent disclosure and, as such, should be deemed novel thereover.

United States Patent No. 5,174,448 discloses a "Container For Shipping And Stacking Sheets Of Glass" patented December 29, 1992 to V. L. Flaig and assigned to Guardian Industries Corp. The container of the '448 patent is designed for shipping sheets of glass and includes a reusable base pallet with a first integral sheet of recyclable corrugated cardboard creased in such a manner as to form two sides and the rear wall of the container. It also forms three bottom flaps for connecting the sheet to the pallet. A second sheet is included of corrugated cardboard which is recyclable and it forms the front wall of the container. L-shaped corner posts are provided of corrugated cardboard for each corner of the container. Horizontal cross members are included of recycled material extending between two opposite walls of the container and located on top of the glass sheets when placed in the container. In this manner a portion of the load of another container will bear against it when stacked thereupon. In this manner a portion of the load will be transferred into the glass sheets such that the sheets bear a portion of the load caused by the stacking. The

above described patent is pertinent to the present invention, however there is no showing of the unique configuration of a device for safely supporting fragile articles which is capable of being mounted upon the substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. This means preferably includes a support member extending longitudinally and is made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon the substrate therebelow for mounting. This support member includes an upper supporting surface and a lower supporting surface. The lower supporting surface is spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting. A mounting member is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therewith. This mounting member can be secured with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath. The mounting member includes a lower securement surface and an upper securement surface wherein the lower securement surface is in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower support surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. On the other hand the upper support surface is located below the upper supporting surface of the support member in a position spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate

therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface for the purpose of facilitating maintaining of a safe spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned mounted on and in abutment with the upper supporting surface. This unique construction is not shown or suggested in the above-identified patent and for this reason the present invention as claimed is deemed to be patentably distinguishable thereover.

United States Patent No. 5,632,590 discloses a "Method And System For Loading Panels Into Shipping Containers At A Work Station And End Effector For Use Therein" patented May 27, 1997 to T. E. Pearson et al and assigned to Ford Motor Company. The system of the '590 patent includes a program controlled robot for loading panels into shipping containers at a work station. The robot has an arm provided with an end effector movable with respect to the controlled axes. In this manner the end effector includes a base frame coupled to the arm of the robot and at least one material handling device supported on the base frame to receive and retain at least one panel. A controller is included which causes the robot to move and causes at least one material handling device to receive, retain and then release at least one panel. The present invention is distinguishable, however, because it discloses an improved means for safely supporting

fragile articles which are mounted upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. It includes a longitudinally extending support member with upper and lower supporting surfaces. It includes a mounting member affixed to the support surface and extending longitudinally therealong and securable to the substrate while abutting it. It includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow and an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and positioned spaced apart from and above the lower securement surface. This lower securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and enhance mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounted upon the substrate therebeneath. This construction is clearly patentably distinguishable from the above defined patent disclosure and, as such, should be deemed novel thereover.

United States Patent No. 5,678,691 discloses a "Corner Element And A Packing System For The Transportation Of Glass Sheet Packages" patented October 21, 1997 to M. Amado-Aguilar et al and assigned to Vidrio Plano, S.A. De C.V. The corner element of the '691 patent is used for the assembly of a package of glass

sheets. It includes first and second separate opposing corner pieces. Each corner piece includes a first planar arm and a second planar arm. The first and second arms form a right angle. Each of the first and second arms have at least one planar projection extending at a right angle. The planar projection of the first corner piece is offset from one planar projection of the second corner piece in such a manner that planar projections of the corresponding planar arms lie in adjacent interfitting relation to one another in a non-overlapping manner such that the two corner pieces are brought into abutting relationship to enclose the corner of the sheet glass package. The present invention as claimed is clearly deemed to be novel in comparison with the disclosure of the above-identified patent. In particular the present invention discloses a means for safely supporting fragile articles which are mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. The means includes a support member extending longitudinally and made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon a substrate therebelow for mounting thereon. The support member includes an upper supporting surface defining a support plane extending thereacross for supporting fragile articles. The upper supporting surface is adapted to support fragile articles thereupon in spaced relation to the substrate therebelow for facilitating protection of them. The support member also includes a lower supporting surface positioned spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and which is adapted

to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting thereupon. A mounting member is also included in the support means which is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therealong. This mounting member is preferably securable with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath for facilitating attaching of the support member thereto. The mounting member preferably includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to a substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower supporting surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. The mounting member further includes an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and positioned spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and for mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounting upon the substrate positioned therebeneath. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface to facilitate maintaining of spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned upon the upper

supporting surface. This construction is not taught or in any way shown, suggested or rendered obvious by the disclosure of the above-identified United States patent and, as such, the present invention as now claimed is deemed patentably allowable in view thereof.

United States Patent No. 6,035,790 discloses a "Shipping Skid" patented March 14, 2000 to B. F. Polando. The shipping skid of the '790 patent includes a base member with a plurality of skids attached to the bottom surface thereof. A center platform is attached to the top surface of the base member. A pair of side platforms are attached to the top surface of the base member with the center platform disposed therebetween. The center platform includes an upper surface extending higher above the base member top surface than the upper surfaces of the side platforms. In this manner each of the side platforms have opposing ends that have a ramp section that slopes downwardly toward the base member. The present invention is distinguishable, however, because it discloses an improved means for safely supporting fragile articles which are mounted upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. It includes a longitudinally extending support member with upper and lower supporting surfaces. It includes a mounting member affixed to the support surface and extending longitudinally therealong and securable to the substrate while abutting it. It includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow and an upper securement

surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and positioned spaced apart from and above the lower securement surface. This lower securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and enhance mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounted upon the substrate therebeneath. This construction is clearly patentably distinguishable from the above defined patent disclosure and, as such, should be deemed novel thereover.

United States Patent No. 6,076,690 discloses a "Fastener Free Container" patented June 20, 2000 to T. S. Hemmerly and assigned to Concept Packaging Group. The container of the '690 patent is made without fasteners and includes a pallet having a top and a bottom defined therein. At least two rails are attached to the top of the pallet with each of the rails having first and second ends. Each of the rails defines an inner and outer dowel hole adjacent each of the first and second ends. At least four wall members are included and each of the wall members further include a post defined at each end of the wall. The posts have a top and bottom dowel. The bottom dowel is of a dimension which snugly engages at least one of the dowels defined in the rails. In this manner insertion of the bottom

dowels of the wall members into the dowel holes defined on the rails creates a container that can be constructed by a user without the use of separate fasteners. The above described patent is pertinent to the present invention, however there is no showing of the unique configuration of a device for safely supporting fragile articles which is capable of being mounted upon the substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. This means preferably includes a support member extending longitudinally and is made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon the substrate therebelow for mounting. This support member includes an upper supporting surface and a lower supporting surface. The lower supporting surface is spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting. A mounting member is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therewith. This mounting member can be secured with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath. The mounting member includes a lower securement surface and an upper securement surface wherein the lower securement surface is in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower support surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. On the other hand the upper support surface is located below the upper supporting surface of the support member in a position spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane

positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface for the purpose of facilitating maintaining of a safe spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned mounted on and in abutment with the upper supporting surface. This unique construction is not shown or suggested in the above-identified patent and for this reason the present invention as claimed is deemed to be patentably distinguishable thereover.

United States Patent No. 6,102,206 discloses "Packaging For Panels, E.G. Glass Panels" patented August 15, 2000 to T. E. Pride and assigned to Cardinal IG Company. The packaging shown in the '206 patent provides a shipping container for supporting a plurality of parallel panels therewithin. The container includes a floor with a generally upright rear wall and a frame supporting the floor and rear wall in planes that intersect at approximately a right angle for vertically supporting the plurality of parallel panels with edges of the panels being supported by the floor and the rear wall. The panel is also supported in parallel planes that are perpendicular to the planes of the rear wall and the floor. An elastic restraining device is included which includes an elongated elastic restraint positioned in such a manner as to

encounter a panel for elastically urging the panel toward the intersections. The present invention as claimed is clearly deemed to be novel in comparison with the disclosure of the above-identified patent. In particular the present invention discloses a means for safely supporting fragile articles which are mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. The means includes a support member extending longitudinally and made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon a substrate therebelow for mounting thereon. The support member includes an upper supporting surface defining a support plane extending thereacross for supporting fragile articles. The upper supporting surface is adapted to support fragile articles thereupon in spaced relation to the substrate therebelow for facilitating protection of them. The support member also includes a lower supporting surface positioned spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and which is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting thereupon. A mounting member is also included in the support means which is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therealong. This mounting member is preferably securable with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath for facilitating attaching of the support member thereto. The mounting member preferably includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to a substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower supporting surface of the

support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. The mounting member further includes an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and positioned spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and for mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounting upon the substrate positioned therebeneath. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface to facilitate maintaining of spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned upon the upper supporting surface. This construction is not taught or in any way shown, suggested or rendered obvious by the disclosure of the above-identified United States patent and, as such, the present invention as now claimed is deemed patentably allowable in view thereof.

United States Patent No. 6,158,589 discloses "Boxes With Internal Resilient Elements" patented December 12, 2000 to J. A. Smith et al and assigned to Motion Design, Inc. The boxes defined in the '589 patent provide flexibly resilient internal

members and further include a relatively rigid sheet forming a platform. The first strap platform is foldable with respect to the platform about a first fold line and a second strap flap is foldable with respect to the platform about a second fold line. The second fold line extends in a direction substantially perpendicular with respect to the direction of the first fold line. A first resilient element is attached to the relatively rigid sheet in such a manner that it extends substantially across the platform of the relatively rigid sheet wherein the first resilient element is attached to the first strap flap. A second resilient element is attached to the relatively rigid sheet and extends substantially across the platform of the relatively rigid sheet such that it is attached to the second strap flap. The above described patent is pertinent to the present invention, however there is no showing of the unique configuration of a device for safely supporting fragile articles which is capable of being mounted upon the substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. This means preferably includes a support member extending longitudinally and is made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon the substrate therebelow for mounting. This support member includes an upper supporting surface and a lower supporting surface. The lower supporting surface is spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting. A mounting member is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally

therewith. This mounting member can be secured with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath. The mounting member includes a lower securement surface and an upper securement surface wherein the lower securement surface is in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower support surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. On the other hand the upper support surface is located below the upper supporting surface of the support member in a position spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface for the purpose of facilitating maintaining of a safe spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned mounted on and in abutment with the upper supporting surface. This unique construction is not shown or suggested in the above-identified patent and for this reason the present invention as claimed is deemed to be patentably distinguishable thereover.

United States Patent No. 6,305,566 discloses a "Container For Fragile Articles" patented October 23, 2001 to M.

J. Pigott et al and assigned to Nucon Corporation. The container of the '566 patent includes a pallet base adapted to be transported by tines of a lift and having an upper surface supported above the ground. A rear wall connects to the base and has an inner surface and two side edges. The upper surface is sloped downwardly toward the inner surface of the rear wall. The present invention is distinguishable, however, because it discloses an improved means for safely supporting fragile articles which are mounted upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. It includes a longitudinally extending support member with upper and lower supporting surfaces. It includes a mounting member affixed to the support surface and extending longitudinally therealong and securable to the substrate while abutting it. It includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow and an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and positioned spaced apart from and above the lower securement surface. This lower securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and enhance mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounted upon the substrate therebeneath.

This construction is clearly patentably distinguishable from the above defined patent disclosure and, as such, should be deemed novel thereover.

United States Patent No. 6,416,271 discloses a "Drop Box Container" patented July 9, 2002 to M. J. Pigott et al and assigned to Nucon Corporation. The container of the '271 patent includes a base frame with a plurality of side members configured to define an opening. A channel is seated within the side members. The upper surface of each side member is sloped away from the channel and toward the opening. At least one runner is included to elevate the base frame from a surface to allow engagement of the container by a forklift or the like therebeneath. At least one door panel is attached along one edge of the base frame for opening and closing across the opening. A sleeve is included having a plurality of side walls and two outer edges defining opposite open ends with one outer edge configured to be seated within the channel of the side members of the base to cover the open end. The present invention as claimed is clearly deemed to be novel in comparison with the disclosure of the above-identified patent. In particular the present invention discloses a means for safely supporting fragile articles which are mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. The means includes a support member extending longitudinally and made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon a substrate therebelow for mounting thereon. The support member includes an

upper supporting surface defining a support plane extending thereacross for supporting fragile articles. The upper supporting surface is adapted to support fragile articles thereupon in spaced relation to the substrate therebelow for facilitating protection of them. The support member also includes a lower supporting surface positioned spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and which is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting thereupon. A mounting member is also included in the support means which is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therealong. This mounting member is preferably securable with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath for facilitating attaching of the support member thereto. The mounting member preferably includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to a substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower supporting surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. The mounting member further includes an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and positioned spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and for

mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounting upon the substrate positioned therebeneath. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface to facilitate maintaining of spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned upon the upper supporting surface. This construction is not taught or in any way shown, suggested or rendered obvious by the disclosure of the above-identified United States patent and, as such, the present invention as now claimed is deemed patentably allowable in view thereof.

United States Patent No. 6,478,153 discloses a "Package For Framed And Unframed Single Mirrors" patented November 12, 2002 to R. C. King. The package for holding mirrors defined in the '153 patent includes a package defining a recess with a mirror disposed in the recess. This recess projects past the mirror on all sides with the mirror supported essentially by the recessed face. A counter-abutment member is included having a surface for contacting an external face of the mirror for retaining it between the recessed face and the counter-abutment member. A fastening device is included which attaches the package and the counter-abutment member. This fastening mechanism is provided for use in locating and mounting the counter-abutment member and the mirror in position within the recess. The above described patent is pertinent to the present

invention, however there is no showing of the unique configuration of a device for safely supporting fragile articles which is capable of being mounted upon the substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. This means preferably includes a support member extending longitudinally and is made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon the substrate therebelow for mounting. This support member includes an upper supporting surface and a lower supporting surface. The lower supporting surface is spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting. A mounting member is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therewith. This mounting member can be secured with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath. The mounting member includes a lower securement surface and an upper securement surface wherein the lower securement surface is in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower support surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. On the other hand the upper support surface is located below the upper supporting surface of the support member in a position spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting

member to the substrate therebelow. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface for the purpose of facilitating maintaining of a safe spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned mounted on and in abutment with the upper supporting surface. This unique construction is not shown or suggested in the above-identified patent and for this reason the present invention as claimed is deemed to be patentably distinguishable thereover.

United States Patent No. 6,478,354 discloses a "System And Method For Packing And Transporting Sheet Materials" patented November 12, 2002 to M. Eyal. The mechanism of the '354 patent is designed for protecting sheet material and includes two projecting elements each including a substantially planar surface for engaging a surface of the sheet material. At least one coupling element is included for coupling the two projecting elements about the sheet material. In this manner each of the projecting elements includes at least one coupling means along at least one side thereof. In this manner at least one coupling element includes coupling means for engaging of the elements as required. The present invention is distinguishable, however, because it discloses an improved means for safely supporting fragile articles which are mounted upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. It includes a longitudinally extending support member with upper and lower

supporting surfaces. It includes a mounting member affixed to the support surface and extending longitudinally therealong and securable to the substrate while abutting it. It includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow and an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and positioned spaced apart from and above the lower securement surface. This lower securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and enhance mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounted upon the substrate therebeneath. This construction is clearly patentably distinguishable from the above defined patent disclosure and, as such, should be deemed novel thereover.

United States Patent No. 6,527,120 discloses "Containers For Packaging Glass Substrates" patented March 4, 2003 to F. Okamoto and assigned to Corning Incorporated. The container disclosed in the '120 patent is for holding a plurality of flexible glass sheets therewithin. The container includes a first side with an opposed second side and two additional sides as well as a top and a bottom which together surround the glass sheets during transportation thereof. The first side comprises a

first plurality of curved grooves and the second side comprises a second plurality of curved grooves. In this manner the first and second pluralities of curved grooves are aligned with each other in such a manner as to form a plurality of pairs of curved grooves. The plurality of glass sheets are held by the aligned pairs of curved grooves. Each curved groove of each pair has substantially the same radius of curvature. This radius of curvature is selected to apply an elastic strain to the glass sheet in such a manner as to reduce the likelihood of contact between the glass sheets in adjacent pairs of grooves as a result of vibration of the container during handling thereof. The present invention as claimed is clearly deemed to be novel in comparison with the disclosure of the above-identified patent. In particular the present invention discloses a means for safely supporting fragile articles which are mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. The means includes a support member extending longitudinally and made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon a substrate therebelow for mounting thereon. The support member includes an upper supporting surface defining a support plane extending thereacross for supporting fragile articles. The upper supporting surface is adapted to support fragile articles thereupon in spaced relation to the substrate therebelow for facilitating protection of them. The support member also includes a lower supporting surface positioned spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and which is adapted

to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting thereupon. A mounting member is also included in the support means which is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therealong. This mounting member is preferably securable with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath for facilitating attaching of the support member thereto. The mounting member preferably includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to a substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower supporting surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. The mounting member further includes an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and positioned spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and for mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounting upon the substrate positioned therebeneath. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface to facilitate maintaining of spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned upon the upper

supporting surface. This construction is not taught or in any way shown, suggested or rendered obvious by the disclosure of the above-identified United States patent and, as such, the present invention as now claimed is deemed patentably allowable in view thereof.

United States Patent No. 6,536,607 discloses a "Transportable Rack" patented March 25, 2003 to P. Knoll et al and assigned to Schneider National Inc. The rack of the '607 patent is designed for transporting members. It includes a first A-frame upright attached to a first base member. A rolling device is rotatably attached thereto. A second A-frame is attached to the second base member. A central support member includes a first end portion and a second end portion. The first end portion is attached to the first base member and the second end portion is attached to the second base member. A retractable beam member is slidably disposed within the central support member and includes a lift receiving device. The above described patent is pertinent to the present invention, however there is no showing of the unique configuration of a device for safely supporting fragile articles which is capable of being mounted upon the substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. This means preferably includes a support member extending longitudinally and is made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon the substrate therebelow for mounting. This support member includes an upper supporting surface and a lower supporting surface. The lower

supporting surface is spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting. A mounting member is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therewith. This mounting member can be secured with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath. The mounting member includes a lower securement surface and an upper securement surface wherein the lower securement surface is in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower support surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. On the other hand the upper support surface is located below the upper supporting surface of the support member in a position spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface for the purpose of facilitating maintaining of a safe spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned mounted on and in abutment with the upper supporting surface. This unique construction is not shown or suggested in the above-identified

patent and for this reason the present invention as claimed is deemed to be patentably distinguishable thereover.

United States Patent No. 6,539,881 discloses a "Pallet Having A Pallet Deck With A Movable Portion And An Associated Method" patented April 1, 2003 to S. L. Underbrink et al and assigned to The Boeing Company. The '881 patent discloses a pallet with a deck having a support surface for supporting an item and including a fixed portion and a movable portion proximate to the fixed portion. The movable portion is capable of moving between a first position in which the movable portion is displaced from the fixed portion and the second position to which the movable portion and the fixed portion cooperate to define the support surface for supporting the item. A support surface is disposed upon the fixed portion of the pallet deck for supporting the item once the movable portion is in the first position. The present invention is distinguishable, however, because it discloses an improved means for safely supporting fragile articles which are mounted upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. It includes a longitudinally extending support member with upper and lower supporting surfaces. It includes a mounting member affixed to the support surface and extending longitudinally therealong and securable to the substrate while abutting it. It includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow and an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting

surface of the support member and positioned spaced apart from and above the lower securement surface. This lower securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and enhance mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounted upon the substrate therebeneath. This construction is clearly patentably distinguishable from the above defined patent disclosure and, as such, should be deemed novel thereover.

United States Patent No. 6,588,605 discloses a "Planar Article Rack Having Closeable Holding Members" patented July 8, 2003 to V. W. Volkert et al and assigned to Cardinal CG Company. The '605 patent shows a rack which is designed to support a plurality of panels. The rack includes a back and a floor at right angles to the back. The back of the floor each have a plurality of slots adapted to receive the peripheral bottom and side edges of the planar panels. The slots on the back of the floor include a plurality of grippers movable perpendicular to the slots to capture and support peripheral edges of the panels. Means are included for moving the grippers between an open position enabling removal of the panels from the slots and a closed position in which the panels are supported within the slots. The above described patent is pertinent to the present

invention, however there is no showing of the unique configuration of a device for safely supporting fragile articles which is capable of being mounted upon the substrate therebelow by securement devices driven therethrough. This means preferably includes a support member extending longitudinally and is made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon the substrate therebelow for mounting. This support member includes an upper supporting surface and a lower supporting surface. The lower supporting surface is spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting. A mounting member is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therewith. This mounting member can be secured with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath. The mounting member includes a lower securement surface and an upper securement surface wherein the lower securement surface is in abutment with respect to the substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower support surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. On the other hand the upper support surface is located below the upper supporting surface of the support member in a position spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting

member to the substrate therebelow. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface for the purpose of facilitating maintaining of a safe spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned mounted on and in abutment with the upper supporting surface. This unique construction is not shown or suggested in the above-identified patent and for this reason the present invention as claimed is deemed to be patentably distinguishable thereover.

United States Patent No. 6,591,988 discloses "Material Handling For The Insulating Glass Industry" patented July 15, 2003 to P. Trpkovski and assigned to Cardinal Glass Industries, Inc. The container shown in the '988 patent includes a container frame with a plurality of combs fixed to the frame each of which includes a plurality of tines. The tines are placed to define a plurality of channels of a dimension to accept bars having a predetermined width. Tines are dimensioned to create spaces between the adjacent channels. Each space is of a dimension to receive a bar engaging member. Also included is a first forklift interface and a second forklift interface to facilitate handling thereof. The present invention as claimed is clearly deemed to be novel in comparison with the disclosure of the above-identified patent. In particular the present invention discloses a means for safely supporting fragile articles which are mountable upon a substrate therebelow by securement devices

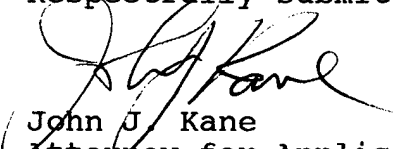
driven therethrough. The means includes a support member extending longitudinally and made of a flexibly resilient material which is adapted to be positioned upon a substrate therebelow for mounting thereon. The support member includes an upper supporting surface defining a support plane extending thereacross for supporting fragile articles. The upper supporting surface is adapted to support fragile articles thereupon in spaced relation to the substrate therebelow for facilitating protection of them. The support member also includes a lower supporting surface positioned spatially distant from and below the upper supporting surface and which is adapted to abut a substrate located therebelow to facilitate mounting thereupon. A mounting member is also included in the support means which is affixed to the support member and extends longitudinally therealong. This mounting member is preferably securable with respect to the substrate in abutment therebeneath for facilitating attaching of the support member thereto. The mounting member preferably includes a lower securement surface positionable in abutment with respect to a substrate therebelow responsive to positioning of the lower supporting surface of the support member into abutment with respect to the substrate. The mounting member further includes an upper securement surface located at a position laterally adjacent and below the upper supporting surface of the support member and positioned spaced from and above the lower securement surface. This upper securement surface defines a securement plane positioned spaced

below the support plane. The upper securement surface is adapted to receive a securement device driven therethrough into engagement with the substrate therebelow to facilitate securement of the mounting member to the substrate therebelow and for mounting of the support member with the lower supporting surface thereof in abutment with and mounting upon the substrate positioned therebeneath. The upper securement surface defines a safety zone thereabove in the area below the support plane of the upper supporting surface to facilitate maintaining of spacing between any securement devices extending through the mounting member and any fragile article positioned upon the upper supporting surface. This construction is not taught or in any way shown, suggested or rendered obvious by the disclosure of the above-identified United States patent and, as such, the present invention as now claimed is deemed patentably allowable in view thereof.

The above art constitutes the closest prior art of which the applicant is aware and, in view of the arguments submitted hereabove, applicant deems that the present application as now defined in the claims set forth herein is patentably distinguishable over all prior art known to the applicant. In view thereof, applicant deems that the present application is in

condition for allowance and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is hereby respectfully solicited.

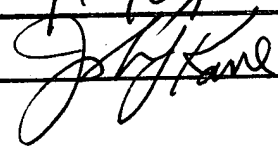
Respectfully submitted,


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Section 2. Form PTO - 1449 (Modified)

FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
(Modified) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

(37 CFR 1.98(b))

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

H0-122-UTIL

SERIAL NO.

10/687,338

APPLICANT

MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN

FILING DATE

10-16-03

GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE if appropriate
	2086688	7-13-37	WOODRUFF			
	2337468	12-21-43	HILGER			
	2556529	6-12-51	FARRELL			
	2626050	1-20-53	FREIBERG			
	2665804	1-12-54	KOESTER			
	2695705	11-30-54	POWERS ET AL			
	2734626	2-14-56	KOESTER ET AL			
	2738058	3-13-56	HANSEN ET AL			
	2741362	4-10-56	CORTRIGHT			
	2873024	2-10-59	KOESTER			
	3064845	11-20-62	MAXWELL			

FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION

		DOCUMENT NUMBER							PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
													YES	NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date**, Relevant Pages, Place of Publication***)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE if appropriate
	3216564	11-9-65	WOLFE, JR. ET AL			
	3389786	6-25-68	LIDGARD			
	3414124	12-3-68	LIDGARD			
	3709358	1-9-73	ANDREWS ET AL			
	3938660	2-17-76	MOGHRIK			
	3939978	2-24-76	THOMASWICK			
	4014435	3-24-77	ROWLEY ET AL			
	4092815	6-6-78	ROWLEY ET AL			
	4225043	9-30-80	LASTIK			
	4287990	9-8-81	KURICK			
	4892193	1-9-90	THOMAS			

FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION

		DOCUMENT NUMBER								PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
										YES				NO	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date**, Relevant Pages, Place of Publication***)

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5085030	2-4-92	SEGAWA ET AL			
	5174448	12-28-92	FLAIG			
	5632590	5-27-97	PEARSON ET AL			
	5678691	10-21-97	AMADO-AGUILAR ET AL			
	6035790	3-14-00	ROLANDO			
	6076690	6-20-00	HEMMERLY			
	6102206	8-15-00	PRIDE			
	6158589	12-12-00	SMITH ET AL			
	6305566	10-23-01	PILOTT ET AL			
	6416271	7-9-02	PILOTT ET AL			
	6478153	11-12-02	KING			

FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION

		DOCUMENT NUMBER						PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
												YES	NO

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